

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2005

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Kelly Wilson	Chuck McAfee	Bob Clayton
Chris Majors	Bud Poe	Bill Lipe
Liz Tozer	Mark Varien	

BLM Attendees:

LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager

Steve Kandell, Monument Land Use Planner

Linda Farnsworth, Monument Archaeologist

Roy Smith, Colorado BLM State Office Water Rights Coordinator

Public Attendees:

Dewayne Findley, Montezuma County Commissioner

Amber Clark, San Juan Citizens Alliance

Miscelle Allison

Phil Weiser

Ann McCoy Harold, Senator Allard's Office

Ron McMaster

Agenda

9:00am - 9:10am	Greetings and Introductions
9:10am – 9:20am	Planning Update
9:20am – 9:50am	Monument Manager Update
9:50am - 10:20am	Election of New Committee Officers and Recommendations Regarding Committee Member Attendance
10:20am - 10:40pm	Public Comment
10:40am - 11:00pm	Approval of Minutes from the June 28 th Meeting and Next Agenda
11:00pm – 11:30am	Discussion of Yellow Jacket Water Rights

11:30am – 12:00pm

Tour of the Collections at the Anasazi Heritage Center (cancelled)

Note: the remainder of these minutes describes the discussion associated with each agenda topic.

Greetings and Introductions

Kelly Wilson welcomed all participants. He addressed the Committee and stated that a quorum is present (i.e., at least seven members). Kelly asked everyone (i.e., Committee members and the public) to introduce themselves. Bob Clayton noted that he was absent from the previous meeting. At this meeting there was a discussion about the Monument Reasonable Foreseeable Development for Oil, Natural Gas and Carbon Dioxide document (RFD). Bob said that if any of the Committee members had outstanding questions for him about the RFD he would be happy to answer them.

Planning Update

Steve Kandell told the Committee that the RFD was completed. He also noted that the Colorado BLM State Office requested that the RFD not be distributed to the public until the release of the Draft Plan. Committee members decided that they wished to make a formal request to the Colorado BLM State Office to have full access to the RFD, prior to the release of the Draft Plan. A motion was made and passed to formally request the RFD. Steve informed the Committee members that the Monument Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) document was also complete, but could not be distributed to the public because it contains information from the RFD. Other planning updates included distributing Planning Newsletter #3 to the Committee, and notifying Committee members that both the air quality modeling and development of the affected environment section of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were underway.

Steve shared with Committee members a revised schedule for completing the draft range of alternatives. Bill Lipe questioned why the Committee doesn't review the draft range of alternatives until after the cooperating agencies and the Colorado BLM State Office. Steve responded that the Colorado BLM State Office has requested that they and the cooperators review the draft range of alternatives first. There needs to be an internal review before the draft alternatives go to the public. Since MAC meetings are public, presentation of alternatives at a MAC meeting would constitute "going public". They want to make sure the alternatives are accurate and complete before the Committee reviews them. Kelly Wilson questioned how potential conflicts between the Committee's alternative recommendations and those of the Colorado BLM State Office would be resolved. Steve noted that if conflicts arise there would be an open dialogue between BLM and the Committee. He also noted that the Colorado BLM State Office has final approval authority on the draft range of alternatives. Kelly Wilson recommended that someone from the Colorado BLM State Office be present during the Committee's review of the draft alternatives to answer questions and resolve potential conflicts. Several Committee members expressed a concern that the schedule for review the draft range of alternatives would conflict with the upcoming holidays.

Bill Lipe asked if the RFD has been shared with the oil and gas industry, to date. Steve responded that BLM worked with the oil and gas industry to collect data, but has not shared the completed document with them.

Committee members asked what occurs following the completion of the draft range of alternatives. Steve noted that once the draft range of alternatives are completed the contractor will work with BLM to determine their potential impacts. Once the potential impacts are determined a preferred alternative will be chosen from the existing alternatives or developed independently. Chris Majors asked how Dolores County will be involved in reviewing the draft range of alternatives since their position on the Committee is currently vacant. LouAnn stated that she would address this issue later in the meeting. Committee members expressed concern that the short time period allowed for them to review the alternatives might not be adequate. LouAnn assured the Committee that they would be given a good opportunity to review the alternatives, but that a reasonable time frame must be used to keep the plan on schedule. Bill Lipe noted that a step in the alternatives development process should be added that reads "Monument Advisory Committee presents formal recommendations to BLM on draft range of alternatives."

The Committee members discussed approaches for reviewing the draft range of alternatives. Mark Varien requested that the Committee members receive a digital version of the alternatives two weeks prior to the first review meeting. Chris Majors suggested that the first meeting be a half-day where BLM presents the alternatives. After a week-off to allow Committee members' additional time to absorb the materials, two consecutive meetings would be held. Each meeting would be a full day resulting in the Committee providing their approval and/or recommended changes to the alternatives.

Monument Manager Update

LouAnn updated the Committee on Monument business by first stating that a Federal Register Notice was published today, formally requesting nominations to fill three vacant Committee positions. Bill Lipe asked how many vacant tribal positions there were. LouAnn responded that two tribal positions are vacant and that they were both advertised in the Federal Register Notice. LouAnn noted that potential nominees have until October 5, 2005 to submit their application, and that Committee members should encourage tribes to submit nominations.

LouAnn stated that Colorado BLM was getting a new State Director. Sally Wisely, former Utah BLM State Director, will begin serving as Colorado's new State Director in October 2005. Other updates LouAnn provided include: 1) acknowledging Kinder Morgan for their participation in the San Juan Mountain Association's Puma auction; 2) the Sackman land exchange, located on three parcels in Yellow Jacket Canyon, is moving forward; 3) three grazing decisions, covering seven allotments in the Monument, were made in July and are currently being appealed; 4) the backfilling project at Cannonball Pueblo is almost completed; 5) last weekend the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) held their volunteer recognition picnic; 6) the AHC roof project is completed; and 7) BLM is working on several projects toward the celebration of the 2006 Antiquities Act Centennial.

Public Comment

Kelly Wilson opened the meeting to public comment. Amber Clark stated that she was impressed with the work the Committee has completed to date. Furthermore, she requested the Committee consider asking the Colorado BLM State Office to release the RFD to the general

public. Committee members further discussed the need to have access to the RFD. Chuck McAfee stated that the Committee's resolution on this issue should be that the entire RFD be provided to them, prior to the completion of the draft alternatives. LouAnn stated that she would forward a briefing paper to the Colorado BLM State Office on this issue.

Election of New Committee Officers and Recommendation Regarding Committee Member Attendance

Steve Kandell noted that the Monument Charter requires election of new officers annually, and that the last officers were elected in October 2003. Mark Varien made a motion to retain the current leadership (i.e., Chuck McAfee as vice chairperson and Kelly Wilson as chairperson). The motion was seconded by Bud Poe and passed. Chris Majors made a motion that if a Committee member misses two consecutive meetings, without good reason, the designated federal officer (i.e., LouAnn Jacobson) would have the Committee's full support in removing that Committee member. The motion was seconded by Liz Tozer and passed. Kelly then asked if there were any corrections to the June 28, 2005 meeting minutes. Chris Majors made a motion to approve them. The motion was seconded by Liz Tozer and passed.

Discussion of Yellow Jacket Creek Water Rights

Roy Smith, Water Rights Coordinator for the Colorado BLM State Office provided an overview of BLM's ongoing effort to secure instream flows to protect sensitive fish species and riparian health in Yellow Jacket Creek. He noted that as a result of McPhee Reservoir and subsequent irrigation in upland agricultural fields that Yellow Jacket Creek became a perennial water source. He noted that BLM is currently working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to secure this water right. Bill Lipe asked if BLM was securing this water right so that future applications would not reduce instream flows to a point where riparian health and sensitive fish species could be harmed. Roy answered that this was a primary reason for pursuing the water right. Mark Varien noted that water rights are a sensitive issue and that BLM should work closely with local communities.

Tour of the Collections at the Anasazi Heritage Center

Committee members agreed to postpone the tour of the collections until the next meeting.